The Bethel Courier.

VOLUME XIX, Number 4 WINTER 1995 BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE RAISES OVER $8500 IN 1995

A near-record 326 donors contributed more than $8500 to the 1995 Annual Fund Campaign according to Annual Fund Chairman Howard W. Cole. Much appreciation is expressed to all of the following for their help in making this possible: Avery and Mary Angevine, Bethel, in memory of Christian Angevine; Ernest and Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Roland E. Annis, Jr., Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis; Mary A. Ashcraft, Westminster, MD; Jean M. Bahrt, Freeport; Romeo and Jo Baker, Newry; Otis J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Urban and Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Rep. Alvin Barth, Jr., Bethel; Kathleen Bean, Bryant Pond, in memory of Eva M. Bean; Ruth T. Bean, Springfield, VT, in memory of Arthur Bean; Bessie Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett; Clinton C. Bennett, Ft. Wayne, IN; Christine and Perry Bennett, Westbrook, in memory of Mildred C. Thomas (1910-1995); Randall H. Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Harriett S. Stowell (1915-1995); Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Mrs. Robert G. Von Bernuth, North Conway, NH; Francis R. and Mary Lou Berry, Bethel; The Bethel Citizen, Bethel; The Bethel Savings Bank, Bethel; William H. Black, Jr., Bethel, in honor of Phyllis R. Black; Elizabeth A. Blake, Bethel; Linona A. Blake, West Paris, in memory of Clayton L. Blake; Reba H. Bloom, Clinton, NJ; Kenneth and Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Garrett and Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Florine E. Bowden, Smithfield, RI, in memory of Herbert R. Bean; Colleen F. Boyd, West Bethel, in memory of Harriett S. Stowell; Dorothy F.Brinck, South Paris, in memory of Rodney E. Eames; Carl and Lettie Brooks, West Paris; Bernice E. Brown, Rumford Center, in memory of Albert H. Brown; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA, in memory of Carl Tucker; La Moyne A. Bunting, Midvale, UT, in memory of Patty Bartlett Sessions; Donald and Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ, in memory of Faye S. Taylor (1908-1972); Catherine Canavan, Cool, CA, in memory of Nathaniel Segur; Reginald Chamberlain, Rumford; Stephen C. Chandler, Bethel; Albert S. Chapman, Harbert, MI, Daphne Chapman, Peabody, MA, in memory of Philip S. Chapman, Jr.; Ethel Chapman, West Bethel; Rosalind R. Chapman, Bethel; William Chapman and Helen Shaw, Chicago, IL; Dr. Donald M. Christie, Jr., Poughkeepsie, NY; Lauralee H. Clayton, Camden, in memory of Sarah Messer; Filmore and Shirley Clough, Bethel; Virginia and Howard Cole, Bethel; Rupert and Eva Conroy, Auburn, in memory of Sylvia Conroy; Bill and Meg Cousins, Bethel, in memory of Monique Rolfe; Clayton and Lola Crockett, Bethel; Vivian

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"Brighton Avenue," now Elm Street, in the early years of the 20th century, looking north with the former telephone office and Van home on the left.

BETHEL'S ELM, SUMMER AND WINTER STREETS: A Brief History

by Geraldine S. Howe

Editor's Note: This article was originally delivered as a paper at the April 7, 1988 monthly meeting of the Bethel Historical Society. It has been revised and updated for publication in this issue. The author is grateful to all who helped her in completing the research that made this history possible.

Bethel's Elm Street began as Chapman Street. The section of the present street from Summer Street to Railroad Street was specifically designated in a deed granted in 1869 by Pinckney Burnham (1814-1892) and others to the Town of Bethel to be called "Chapman Street." The Chapman so honored was probably Robert A. Chapman, one of the leading businessmen and developers of 19th century Bethel. The same deed also specified the present names for Summer and Winter streets. Chapman Street was laid out to be three rods wide, while Summer and Winter streets were specified in the deed as two rods wide.

The other section of the present Elm Street from Summer Street to Main Street developed later and was not

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(Annual Fund donors, continued from page 1)

Darcy, Portland, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. D.D. Cross; Ruth H. Cummings, Bethel, in memory of Arthur Cummings; Daniel and Evanna Davis, Bethel, in memory of Harriett S. Stowell; Lonnie and Freda Davis, Bethel, in memory of Wilbur Davis and Raymond Bennett; Rita H. Davis, Bethel, in memory of Dick Davis; Robert and Pauline Davis, Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis and Harriett S. Stowell; Richard and Grace Douglass, Bethel, in memory of Alice Taylor and Vernon and Maxine Brown; Frances Lane Dunn, Round Pond; Richard and Carole Duplessis, Bethel; Hugh and Mariann Durgin, Waterford, in memory of John E. Grover; Marianne Hamilton Durgin, Belmont, MA, in memory of Alice Smith Hamilton; Diane Dyer, Westbrook; Katheryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth; Unicorn Flower Shop, Bethel; Muriel I. Ewing, York, in memory of Frank Kilgore; Howard and Alice Fales, West Redding, CT; Walter and Phyllis Fales, Augres, MI, in memory of Alice Kimball Fales (1897-1982); Ruth S. 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NEW LIFE MEMBER

Joan Penley Detter, Santa Fe, NM

(Elm Street, continued from page 1)

specified to be so broad in 1909 when it was officially accepted by the Town of Bethel. Previous to that time it was commonly referred to as "Brighton Avenue," so named because cattle dealer John M. Philbrook (1840-1923) lived on the corner of Main and "Brighton." He shipped a great deal of livestock to the Brighton, Massachusetts market from Bethel for many years. In 1955, Gould Academy and the Town of Bethel agreed to add two feet of paved surface from Main Street to High Street on the present Gould parking lot side in exchange for land on the opposite side of the street near the site of the now demolished Bethel Grammar School.

Beginning on the Main Street end of Elm Street on the west side facing the street from Main is found the house now known as the Van or Wilson House, presently owned by Gould Academy. The site originally belonged to John Philbrook. The house was built in 1938-39 by Dr. Harry Wilson, who lived here and carried on a medical practice (with time out for World War II service) until 1946 when he sold to Emma J. Van Den Kerckhoven. From her, the property passed to her children: Grace, Lucia, and Louis. The Van family operated a dress shop in part of the house. Gould Academy acquired the property from the family in 1967. Occupants since the Gould ownership have included Ted and Christine Grover, Sam and Bea Bigelow, Colin and Getchen Davidson, Bill and Bonny Pooley, and the present residents Pat and Neil Donovan.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This issue contains a list of all donors to the 1995 Annual Fund campaign. We certainly appreciate all who made contributions to the Fund and wish to express the Society's gratitude for this generosity which is so important to our organization.

We expect the computerization of the Society will be a major goal in 1996, Bethel's bicentennial year and the 30th anniversary of the Society's founding. We need volunteers to analyze the Society's computer needs and establish an action plan for implementation. If any of our readers are interested in volunteering, please call the Society office at 824-2908 or our 800 number on the back page of this issue.

Charles Raymond

1996 SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

January 4--Annual "So You Think You Know Bethel"; February 1--Annual Historical Film Festival; March 7--Oral History Night: Bethel Farming; April 4--Nettie Cummings Maxim: Bethel Photographer, Blaine Mills; May 2--Oral History Night: World War II Veterans of Bethel; June 6--The Poor of Bethel, Stanley R. Howe; July 4--Annual Picnic, West Bethel Church, Oral History Night: The Fourth of July in Bethel; August 1--200 Years of Congregationalism in Bethel; September 5--Pot Luck Supper, 31st Annual Meeting; October 3--Annual "What's It" Night; November 7--19th Century Education in Bethel, Margaret Joy Tibbetts; December 5--Annual "Christmas with the Masons." All meetings, unless otherwise specified, will be held at Society headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House, beginning at 7:30 P.M. The picnic will begin at 6 P.M. and the annual meting will be preceded by the pot luck supper beginning at 6:30 P.M.

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. They may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under $10 should include $1 for postage and handling; those over $10 but under $20 should include $2 and all those over $20 should add $3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	$3.50
Stationery (package ten sheets and ten envelopes)	$2 each
Moses Mason House, Bethel Railroad Station, Summer House, Bethel Covered Bridge	
Booklets	
The Family Farm, Made In Bethel	75 cents each
Dr. Moses Mason and His House	$1
Molly Ockett	$2
Maps and Atlases	
1880 Map of Bethel Hill	$2
1880 Map of Town of Bethel	$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	$7.50
T-Shirts	
Moses Mason Museum (Adult, S, M, L, XL)	$8
Moses Mason Museum (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14)	$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult, S, M, L, XL)	$8
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child, 4-6-8-10-12-14)	$8
Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House	10 cents each
Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	small $7.50
	large $11.50
Placemats, 4 season, set of four Bethel scenes	$7.50
Books	
Carrie Wight, *A History of Newry*	$5
Hutchinson, *The Rumford Falls and Rangeley Lakes Railroad*	$20
Bethel, Maine Cemeteries	$9.50
Russell, *Indian New England Before the Mayflower*	$15.95
Little, *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850*	$9.95
Crosby, *From an Old Leather Trunk*	$5
Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine*	$19.95
Maine the Pine Tree State: From Prehistory to the Present	$29.95
Bennett, *The White Mountains*	$14.99
Wight, *Wild River Wilderness*	$5
Parkman, *The Gould Academy Story*	$7.50
Maine in the Early Republic	$29.95
Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of Northern New England*	$22.95
Bennett, *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History .*	$39.95
King, *Annals of Oxford*	$48
Crosby, *I Was A Summer Boarder*	$5
Howe, *"A Fair Field and No Favor": A Concise History of the Maine State Grange*	$19.95
Paula Wight, *Newry Profiles*	$5
Bean, *East Bethel Road*	$50
Bennett, *Oxford County, Maine*	$18
Lapham, *History of Bethel, 1768-1890*	$45
Shirrefs, *The Richardson Lakes* Quality Paperback	$29.95
Hardcover Edition	$39.95

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling $10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O.Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217-0012. If the items you ordered are in stock, they will be sent by return mail. For further information, please call toll free1-800-824-2910.

(Elm Street, continued from page 3)

Next door is the equipment building for Oxford West Telephone Company installed in the 1970s. Previous to this, there was a wood shingle house and office built about 1920 by S.T. Tripp for Alphonse and Emma Van. "Al" Va[illegible] maintained a greenhouse here and later raised squabs, a nesting pidgeon considered a delicacy. The telephone office was located here after it was moved from Main Street. Operators over the years who worked here include Dan and Alice Smith, Mona Martyn, Madeline Emery, Viola Lord, Joyce Swan, Marjorie Freeman, Lela McAllister, Florice Paul, Julia Brown, Alberta Merrill, Margaret Olson, Helen Blowers, Barbara Berryment, and Patricia Davis Blaquiere. Julia Brown remembered Pearl Harbor very well. She was working that Sunday and noticed the board was all lit up. She could not understand what had happened until the Vans returned and told her the story. During World War II, she recalled citizens conveyed information about overhead planes to the telephone office. The operators also traced doctors down for patients. They secured veterinarians, morticians and ambulances. Fires were also reported to the operators as well. For over forty years, this was the place that customers came to pay their bills. It was in this building that the change was made from the magneto to the dial system for the area. Linesmen through the years were Dan Smith, Olie Morgan, Don James, Rodney Waterhouse, Ernest Perkins, Eugene Van, Jr., and Walter Tikander. Julia recalled that when she went to work, operators were self-taught. The starting pay was twenty cents per hour and the average telephone bill was $1.50, later raised to $3. Always popular with the youth, the Vans entertained many young people here, particularly when the property was owned by Eugen[illegible] and Jane Van. In the 1970s, the building was sold by Conte[illegible] to Leland and Sylvia Dunham and moved to Greenwood. It was later acquired by Evanna Davis, who owns it today. The present tenant is Ellie Houghton.

Next comes the vacant lot where the Bethel Grammar School once stood and the Gould Art Cottage, which both faced the former High Street, and were discussed in the High Street article that appeared in the Fall 1984 issue of the *Courier*. The rear of Bingham Hall borders on the street. This was discussed in Rosalind Chapman's Church Street article in the December 1980 issue of the *Courier*.

The next house on the same side of the street was demolished in the mid-1960s. From Rosalind Rowe Chapman's history of Church Street published in the *Courier* in 1980 is the following account: "In 1923, Gould Academy bought the land where Gehring Hall stands today from Miss Mary Chapman, daughter of Gilman Chapman, who built the house in 1871. In 1880, Mary's brother, John, was living there. It was moved to the corner of Elm and Summer streets and used for Gould Academy housing until it was torn down when Bingham Hall was built in 1963. Mr. Leroy Hamlin, who worked for Gould, lived there for many years." Other tenants here included Linwood and Mildred Lowell. Mr. Lowell was on the maintenance staff at the Academy. Neil Treworthy lived here while he headed the construction for Bingham Hall.

Beyond this house, Summer Street used to connect with Church Street. This portion of the street was closed in the late 1930s. On the opposite corner of what was Summer Street and the present Elm Street stood the former Hugh Thurston (1886-1966) house, which was demol-

ished in 1963. In the early 1970s, this site became the site for the Gould tennis courts. From Rosalind Chapman's history of Church Street published in the December 1980 *Courier* is found the following: "On the site of the present Gould Academy's principal's home was the house of John Kimball. It was next owned by Horace Andrews, a carriage maker. He sold it to Gould Academy, and in 1927 it was purchased by Hugh Thurston, who had it moved to the corner of Elm and Summer streets. Mr. Thurston had movers from Berlin, New Hampshire handle the project. When the house had been moved as far as the middle of Summer Street, the movers unexpectedly left the job. Thurston could not find anyone to finish the moving nearer than Boston, so James Spinney, who had been working on the project, offered to go ahead with it, which he did." Thurston sold the property to Gould Academy in 1938. Among those who resided here after Gould assumed possession were Wilbur and Polly Myers and Herbert and Evelyn Nickerson.

On the same side of Summer Street between the former Thurston house and the Dr. Twaddle house on Church Street stood the Connor house, which was built about 1880 for the Grover family. Owners here included George Grover, Fred Clark, Susan Douglass, Mary Douglass, Hugh Thurston, and Parker Connor, who sold the property to Gould Academy in 1938. It was demolished to make way for the construction of Holden Hall in 1939.

As we move down Elm Street toward the intersection with Winter Street. On the south side of Winter Street once stood the McAllister house, built around the turn of the century. Owners here have included Odecia Foster, Mabel Knapp, Arthur Dudley, Ethel Connor and Milo McAllister. It was sold to Gould Academy in 1941 and used for faculty housing until it was demolished about 1960. Among the faculty who lived here were Paul Kailey and Richmond "Joe" Roderick.

Across Winter Street is the Garber house, also built at the turn of the century. Owners have included Ida Douglass, Newton S. Stowell, and Arthur Garber, who sold to Gould Academy in 1947. Among the faculty who have lived here are Theodore Emery, Clifford Hillier and Charles Hurd. History teachers Paul McGuire and Robin Lee are the present occupants.

Back on the west side of Elm Street is found the Young house built by Samuel Dana Philbrook in 1887. This house was rented for several years. Among the owners were Fred C.Holt, Grace M. Holt, James Spinney, and Archie Young, Sr., whose family lived here for many years. From the Young family, ownership of the house passed to Richard and Barbara James in 1984. John and Linda Caron acquired the property in 1985.

The next house was also built by S. D. Philbrook in 1887. From the Philbrook family, ownership was transferred to Addison Holt in 1917. He sold the property to Ray Crockett in 1920, who lived here with his family for many years. From the Crockett family, the premises passed to Jeff and Pattie Parsons in the 1970s. The Parsons sold the property to Robert and Katherine Swain in 1981. John and Leah Witter acquired the premises from the Swains in 1985. Ray Crockett moved a garage to this property from his business on Church Street in the late 1930s. Leona Flint was born in this house in 1912. Following his marriage to Marjorie Connor, John Witter moved a mobile home to the lot for his mother Leah. Following her death, the mobile home was taken away. Next to this area in 1992, Leland Brown built a new garage, which borders on his property discussed in the article on Railroad Street, which appeared in the Spring 1990 issue of the *Courier.*

Over 100 attended the special reception held at the Society's Dr. Moses Mason House Meeting Room for Jack and Diane Barne's book Maine Life at the Turn of the Century Through the Photographs of Nettie Cummings Maxim *sponsored by the Greenwood and Bethel Historical societies on November 11, 1995. Photographed above are (left to right) Blaine Mills of the Greenwood Historical Society, holding Nettie Maxim's camera, Diane Barnes, Kirsty Sutton, representing the publisher, Arcadia Publishing, Jack Barnes, Margaret Mills of the Greenwood Historical Society, and Thelma Holden, granddaughter of Nettie Maxim.*

Across Elm Street beginning on the Railroad Street end next to the Keoskie house, also discussed in the Spring 1990 *Courier,* is the former Bean property. The house was once the stable that belonged with the Charles Keoskie property on Railroad Street. Roland Annis (1893-1983) sold the premises to Jesse B. Chapman (1889-1969), who transformed the structure into two apartments. The property was acquired by Ruth M. Bean in 1964; she sold to Robert and Robin Gunderson in 1979. The Gundersons sold to Spencer Hickman. Among the tenants here through the years were Rufus and Mary Rice, Ernest and Alberta Angevine, Howard and Sandra Gunther, Dana Bean, Neil Merrill, Lincoln and Evelyn Merrill, James Knights, Addison Saunders, Eddie Mason, and James Haskell. Mrs. Bean combined the two rents into one during her ownership. Eric Hoke lives there today.

The next house was that long occupied by Fannie Carter. It was built in the late 19th century by Ward K. Swan (1850-1930). It was willed to Herbert P. Swan (1882-1953), who sold it to Minnie (1872-1948) and Alice Capen (1881-1963) in 1937. They transferred it to their sister Fannie Capen Carter (1878-1961) in 1943. Following her death, her heirs sold the premises to Loton (1908-1978) and Iva Hutchinson (1910-1989). Loton Hutchinson, who was Bethel's Tax Collector from 1951-54, operated an insurance business here for several years. His widow sold the property to Daniel and Roseann Allen in 1986. They sold to Ron-Den, Inc., which transferred the property to Gail Sysko in 1994.

(continued on page 6)

(Elm Street, continued from page 5)

The Saunders house was built to replace one burned on 11 December 1909. A contemporary news item recorded the loss: "A wagon, one horse, one cow, and a few household items were the only things saved. Insurance totaled $1700 which was insufficient to cover the case." The original house was built in 1890 by Mr. Holt, who acquired the land from Samuel D. Philbrook. Mr. Holt's daughter Vera Holt Haskell sold the house in 1938 to Guy Morgan (1892-1958), who sold to George L. Nicholson in 1946. That same year Nicholson transferred the property to Hanover Dowel Company from which it was conveyed to Wallace and Frances Saunders in 1979. Wallace died in 1990 and his widow continues to live here today.

The so-called Adeline Dexter house was originally part of a building on the Mack Mill site on Vernon Street. It was moved to Elm Street in the 1940s and an addition put on it. For many years, it was the home of the late Adeline Dexter. Gertrude Boyker also lived here at one time. The present owner, Laura M. Piawlock, acquired the property from Mrs. Dexter in 1983.

On the next site stood a set of buildings long occupied by the Bailey family. They were built in the late 19th century and razed in March 1969. Charles Allen once owned this property. He sold to Edith Bailey in 1921. The premises passed from the Bailey family in 1965 when Gertrude Boyker acquired the property. She sold it to Gould Academy, which demolished the buildings. Bruce Bailey recalled that the house was divided into two separate living quarters; his family lived in one section and his grandparents, James (1865-1946) and Marion (1871-1935) Spinney, lived in the other. Eldon and Ann Greenleaf once rented here as did George and Hope Bailey Parsons in the mid-1940s. Mary and Larry Davis also lived here.

The Zallen house was moved to the former Bailey house site in 1981. It was transported down Elm Street to its present location from the lot which is now used for parking at the Bethel House property. This house once belonged to Sylvester Robertson (1815-1905), Bethel's early cabinetmaker. Robertson's daughter Ann Maria (1843-1944) sold the house upon her father's death to Edward Clark, whose widow, Angelia Mason Clark (1838-1930) and son Irving (1866-1952) lived here for many years. The house was sold to Max Zallen in 1940 shortly before he opened a theater on Main Street. It was occupied by Louis and Florice Paul, Maurice and Herbertina Brooks, Norman and Lettie Hall, and Fitzmorris Vail. Louis Paul was the projectionist for the theater and Lettie Hall cleaned the theater. Later Zallen renovated the theater to create the Thunderbird Motel in the late 1950s, which was subsequently acquired by Gould Academy for student housing. The house was the home of the dormitory supervisor. Now a faculty residence, it is home to Lorenzo and Jan Baker.

The Knapp house was built by Fred Clark on the west side of Elm Street, but was moved in the 1960s across the street. It was intended as a Methodist parsonage so when it was not accepted by that denomination, Mr. Clark declared, "I will worship somewhere else." It was long the home of Ross and Mabel Knapp. He was an plant engineer and Star Route mail carrier. She was a dressmaker, who also made several of the class banners for Gould Academy. Mr. Knapp sold the property to Gould Academy in 1940. Among the faculty who lived here were Clayton Fossett and Theodore Emery before the house was moved. Those faculty living in the new location were Charles Chakoumakos, Charles Hurd, Alvin Barth, Jr., and the present residents Peter and Vickie Rackliffe.

Earlon Keniston remembers an old house across the street on the site where the Knapp house was built. The house and lot were purchased by Fred Clark, who demolished the old structure, which was then vacant, and built the Knapp house. Previous to that time, Mr. Keniston remembers Hazel Buck and her children living in the old house as well as Foss Bubier and his family.

On the corner of Summer and Elm streets is the Clark house. The original house on this site was built in the 1870s for John W. Kendall. It burned in the latter part of the 19th century and the present buildings replaced those destroyed. There was apparently enough insurance to build the present premises. Eva Bean in her notebook records that Fred Clark (1864-1959) "married" the house with the girl since he wedded John Kendall's daughter, Mary Ella Kendall (1873-1950). They lived here for many years. After his wife's death, Mr. Clark sold the property to Gould Academy in 1954. Since that time, the house has been used for faculty housing. Among those who lived here are Alvin and Jane Barth, Vance and Janet Richardson, William and Margaret Cousins, the Paul Nelsons, Patricia Bunt, and the present occupants James and Lucia Owen.

Next door on Summer Street is a large set of buildings built by T. B. Kendall (1837-1906) in 1898. It was acquired by Fritz Tyler (1873-1964) in 1899 and he and his wife Grace (1876-1959) lived here for the rest of their lives. Upon his death in 1964, the property passed to his daughter Esther (1902-1976). John Harrington (1896-1983) inherited the premises following Esther Tyler's death in 1976. Following John Harrington's death in 1983, the property was willed to his nephews Gerald and Franklin Harrington. It is still in the hands of the Harrington family. At the end of the street are buildings facing Mechanic Street. These are discussed in the Summer 1987 issue of the *Courier*.

Across the street is the Backstage Restaurant owned by Harry Faulkner. The building was once part of the corn shop that was operated near the railroad tracks. It was moved to the present location in the 1920s by Fritz Tyler and used in his various operations for a number of years. Later, John Harrington operated a grain store here. In the 1960s, Western Maine Supply was here before moving to its present location on Cross Street. After Tyler's death in 1964, title passed to his daughter Esther, who willed it to John Harrington after her death in 1976. Harrington sold the property to George and Barbara Olson in December 1976. They sold it to Alice M. Stokes and she transferred it to the present owner.

Moving up the street toward Elm Street is the former Lowell property built in the late 19th century by Ferry Walker. Owners of the property have included Ebenezer Richardson, William Walker, John Philbrook, Mina Wight Harriman, Bert Clifford, and Edward and Doris Lowell. Edward Lowell operated a welding shop here for several years. The Lowells sold the property to Gould Academy in 1962. After Gould acquired the premises, the property was used for staff housing. Linwood and Mildred Lowell once lived here. Later it was home to Neil and Pat Donovan. The present resident is Bonny Pooley.

There once stood a house between the Lowell house and that of Daisy Bryant. Not much is known of its origins,

Daisy Bryant admires flowers in her garden that bordered Elm Street in 1955. In the background are the former Chapman house beyond which is the former Thurston house. Both were both demolished in 1963.

but residents have included Leslie Cummings, Millie Clark, Alice Taylor, Edward and Doris Lowell, and Lester Coolidge, Jr. It was demolished in 1969 by Gould Academy.

On the southern corner of Elm and Summer streets is the house long inhabited by William (1878-1950) and Daisy (1880-l972) Bryant. It was built by Lot Coburn (1841-1917). He sold the property to Chauncy Bryant (1852-1934), who transferred it to his son William in 1904. Gould Academy acquired the premises from William's widow Daisy in 1971. Among the Gould faculty who have lived here are Frank and Carol Fiske and Marvin and Tineke Ouwinga. Eva Bean in her notebook records: "When the sewer was put in on Elm Street, they found the bored logs that were used for pipe. The hole was in what is now Elm Street opposite Daisy Bryant's rose garden. Elm Street ran only from Railroad to Summer Street then. The hole is where the Grand Trunk [Railroad] got its water."

Moving on the east side of Elm Street is the former Hall house discussed in the article on High Street that appeared in the Fall 1984 issue of the *Courier.* Across High Street is the Gould Academy parking lot(once the site of the home of Earl and Elsie Davis), which is also discussed in that issue. Further along Elm Street toward Main was the lumber shed once operated by Earl's brother Leslie Davis in the 1930s. The barn for the Zallen house extended to Elm Street and bordered on the house at the corner facing Main Street, long occupied by the Robertson family, now gone, part of the site for the present Bethel House. These are discussed in Rosalind Chapman's article on Main Street that appeared in the December 1978 issue of the *Courier.*

These three Bethel streets have changed much through the years. Buildings have been moved and demolished. Families who lived here for years have died, moved way and/or sold out. Businesses have come and gone. But through this flux and change an essential part of Bethel is still evident today.

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the Oxford Advertiser, 4 June 1886, compiled by Judge C.F. Whitman of Norway

The position held so gallantly by Bartlett's Brigade at Gaines Mill was a very important one as will be seen by the following quotation from the Rebel Gen. D. H. Hills article on "McClellan's Change of Base" in July *Century* of 1885: "Porter's weak point at Gaines Hill was his right flank. A thorough examination of the ground would have disclosed that: and had (Stonewall) Jackson's command gone in on the left of the road, running by the McGee house, Porter's whole positions would have been turned and the line of retreat cut off." Bartlett's men who needed the addition of Jackson's force to put us to rout in that part of the field. The road here spoken of is the one which the Fifth Maine with its Brigade so nobly held till nine in the evening when they were forced to retire. It was near the McGee house spoken of that Lieut. Col. Heath was killed as related.

General Porter in the June *Century* of the same year speaking of the standing of Slocum's Division of which Bartlett's Brigade was a part says: "I had seen to my delight Slocum's Division of Franklin's Corps crossing the river to my assistance. McClellan had promised to send it and I needed it. It was one of the best divisions of the army. Its able, experienced and gallant commander and his brave and gifted subordinates had the confidence of their well-trained soldiers. They were all worthy comrades of my well tried and fully trusted officers and of many others on that field subsequently honored by their countrymen." Thus it will be seen how they were regarded by the highest officers of the army. We cannot be accused of according higher praise than the commanding generals under whom they won their enviable reputation as fighters.

It took the enemy about twenty-four hours to comprehend the design of Gen. McClellan to retreat to the James, when the Rebel forces were put in motion to prevent it. During the meantime our army was well underway. Slocum's Division having recrossed the Chickahominy at "Woodbury's Bridge" took position at "Goldings Farm" in order that the army might continue its movement while this splendid Division should cover the retreat.

The Fifth Maine was thrown to the left to support a battery. Having got into position they unslung their knapsacks and piled them on the ground. In a short time the Rebels placed a battery near the Gaine's house on the opposite side of the river, opening fire on our flank, which caused the withdrawal of our battery and its supports. While the Fifth Maine was moving by the flank a solid shot from the enemy's guns passed within a few feet of the men. Had it gone five feet nearer it must [sic] have done immense execution as it would have raked the whole length of the line. The Regt. soon got out of range when it halted. Capt. Edwards then detailed a few men from each company to go back and bring in the knapsacks, which had been left behind in their hasty retreat, and they were recovered without the loss of a man.

At two o'clock on the following morning they moved to Savage Station where four days rations were issued to the troops. It was at this place that an immense store of army supplies were buried to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. The next day the Regt. crossed the White Oak swamp and took position at Charles City Cross Roads where the Rebels had decided to intercept our forces and strike us a severe blow. While moving to this point General McClellan rode along the line. The soldiers were not allowed to cheer but thousands of hats went into the air. He noticed Capt. Edwards on foot at the head of his Regt. and the following took place: "What Regt. is this?" he asked. "The Fifth Maine," was the reply. "Who is in com-

(continued on page 8)

(Soldiers of '61, continued from page 7)

mand?" "I am" answered Capt. Edwards. "Where is your Colonel?" "Wounded." "Your Lieut. Col.?" "Dead." "Your Major?" "Sick and in the hospital." Appreciating his plucky bearing he warmly grasped the Captain by the hand with "Keep up the good cheer, Capt., we shall come out all right."

That night the Fifth Maine went on picket and the next morning the whole Division was ordered back about a mile to hold a position until the rear guard of the army should pass. Our batteries were posted to command it while the infantry were drawn up in the line of battle.

To give a correct idea of the situation of the contending forces in the battle of Charles City Cross Roads, Glendale or Frayser's Farm as it is variously called, we will here state that opposed to the right wing of our army were the troops of Jackson and D.H. Hill, while the left composed of the Division of McCall, Kearney and Sedgewick came into conflict with Longstreet and A.P. Hill's Divisions and the Rebel Gen'l Huger's Division fought against Gen. Slocum's troops on our center. The severest fighting took place to our left, but we will only describe Slocum's fight with Huger.

About one o'clock the Rebels made their appearance in force and our batteries at once opened fire upon them. They were posted on a brow of a hill and directly in their rear lay the infantry. A cut of this very position may be seen in the July *Century* of last year.

The contest soon became hot and furious. One hundred discharges per minute from forty guns shook the earth and rent great gaps in the yelling, charging columns of the Rebels. Their ranks closed up and on they came. They were brave men, there is no discounting that, but the mighty, indomitable power of Northern will and endurance had planted itself on that little ridge, and against which they dashed themselves like waves of the seas against the rocks during a furious storm. It is almost impossible to describe the fearful din. So loud was it that even the heaviest thunder would have been unheard. The air was full of solid shot and bursting shell. Limbs of trees were torn off and fell around the men. On came the enemy, and faster and faster worked the gunners.

Never before nor afterward did the soldiers of the Fifth Maine experience such a cannonade. At Gettysburg, two hundred guns were booming at the same time, but at Charles City Cross Roads the fire was more concentrated and directly over them. And here let us say that there are a number of soldiers of this Regt. today drawing pensions on account of deafness contracted under this cannonade.

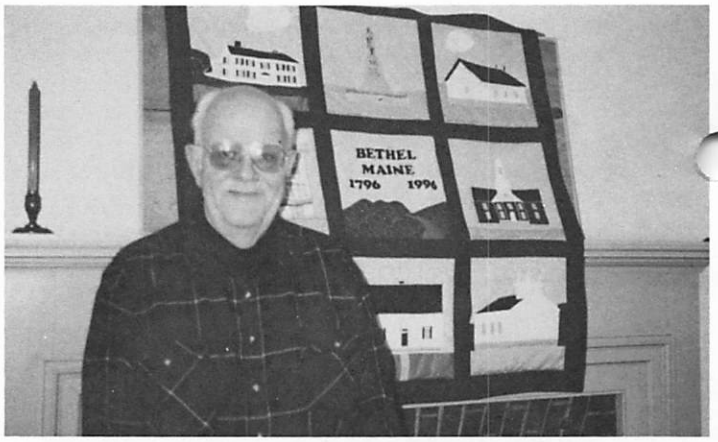
Thirty minutes passed. Only half an hour, but it seemed an age to our anxious soldiers. In such situations men live a lifetime in a few moments. Three quarters of an hour elapsed and the enemy were within a few feet of our guns. "Give them grape and cannister," rang the command. It was too much for human endurance. Before that storm, the head of the Rebel column went down. Their ranks were broken and they reluctantly turned and fled.

The Confederate generals everywhere pay bounteous tributes of praise to our artillery while claiming the superiority of their infantry. We do not admit the latter proposition, but while Malvern Hill and Gettysburg shall be remembered, they may well accord our Artillery the full credit it deserves.

Capt. Edwards kept his men on the ground while the cannonading was going on and none of his Co. or Regt. was injured. By the excellent care of his men at West Point and at Gaines Mill, every man escaped without a wound, while other companies, which did no more fighting, were seriously cut to pieces. He taught his men not to be too eager but to strictly obey orders and keep well in hand. Many a soldier has paid for his curiousity with his life.

During the campaign from the Wilderness to Richmond, the Maine Heavy Artillery Regt., having been ordered into a fight, refused to throw themselves on the ground, but marched down the slope to the enemy, furnishing a splendid target for the enemy. They called the soldiers of the 17th Maine cowards for throwing themselves on the ground and allowing the shots of the Rebels to fly harmlessly over them. The slaughter of the Heavy Artillery was immense and they paid dearly for their foolish notions. They might as well [have] marched out in front of the enemy and invited them to shoot them down. It was wisdom to protect the men from senseless slaughter and Capt. Edwards understood this thoroughly but more than all he had a personal interest in the welfare of the men under him. The friends of those who lost their lives in his command may be comforted to know that no man's life was ever senselessly sacrificed by his means.

(to be continued in the next issue)



John Head

MEMBER PROFILE

John B. Head was born in 1932, the son of Paul B. and Olive A. Head of West Bethel. He attended local schools and graduated from Gould Academy in 1950. Following graduation from Burdett College in Boston, he entered the U.S. Army and served at Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer in New Jersey and the 8th Army in the Far East. Upon separation from active duty in 1955, he returned to the Far East as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense. During the next fifteen years, he served in a variety of positions in Tokyo, Japan and Naha, Okinawa. His final assignment was with the staff of the U.S. High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Isalnds.

Upon his return to the United States, he formed a business dealing in the philately and postal history of the Far East, specializing in Japan and the Ryukus. Currently, he operates his business from his home, the former Gen. Clark S. Edwards homestead on Vernon Street. He married the

former Fumiko Ito in 1960 at the American Embassy in Tokyo. She works with him in the business and is great help in Japanese linguistic matters.

A charter member of the Bethel Rotary Club, where he has served as president and secretary, and continues as treasurer, he also has been treasurer of the Bethel Library for twenty years, a trustee of the Bethel Water District for fifteen years, and is treasurer of Bethel's Bicentennial Committee. He is finance officer of the American Legion Post in Bethel, a past president and currently a director of the Bethel Area Health Center, and a member of Pleasant Valley Grange and the West Bethel Union Church.

A life member of the Society, he has served for many years on the Society's Finance and Investment Committee and the Annual Fund Committee. Currently a member of the Board of Trustees, he has been a generous donor to the Society for nearly twenty years.

BOOK REVIEW

MAINE: THE PINE TREE STATE FROM PRE-HISTORY TO THE PRESENT. Edited by Richard W. Judd, Edwin A. Churchill, and Joel W. Eastman. (Orono: University of Maine Press, 1995. Pp. 616. Paper $29.95.)

The Preface to this useful and interesting history of Maine tells us that the idea for this joint product originated at a conference on rural Maine history held in Bethel in 1985. It is the first general history of the State's history since Louis C. Hatch's *Maine: A History,* published in 1919. The present volume not only brings the story up to date but is, in my opinion, much more interesting reading.

The format lends itself to a livelier presentation. There are twenty-three chapters (along with the Preface, Introduction and Epilogue) prepared by different scholars or groups of scholars, a total of 27 contributing authors, including our own Stanley Howe. The chapters follow the chronological course of Maine's history, but each concentrates on a different subject or aspect of Maine development. This makes it easier to follow lines of particular interest or to skip those areas already too familiar. The three editors have done a fine job in keeping the various styles relatively consistent and in focusing the reader's attention on the continuing themes which have governed Maine's development.

These themes are set out in the excellent Introduction by Richard W. Judd, who teaches Maine history at the University of Maine. The first is the interaction between what happens in Maine and the effect of outside influences and actions. The second is the factor of our location--a border area, a maritime region, a place which was long a wilderness and a site always near the end of the transportation line.

The third theme is the tension between conflict and stability--or the existence of inner tensions, --Indians against settlers, settlers against either the British or Massachusetts, or in more modern times, urban laborers with different interests from those of the farmers and lumbermen, and the long standing conflict of interests between the wealthier, and more populous southern areas and the northern counties. The fourth theme is the influence of our environment--a hard climate, short growing season, rocky soil, deep forests and difficult traveling. As much as any other factor, the environment has contributed to the Maine character--independent, cautious, ingenious, and skeptical.

I was pleased to note that in several instances the various authors have used Bethel sources and showed real familiarity with our history. Bethel is not mentioned often in the index, not as often as it appears in the history itself. Regretfully, the index is one of the few areas of the volume which appears to be have been rather casually prepared.

To generalize, after the periods of pre-history, exploration and a rather long and difficult period of settlement in which real pioneering took place, Maine from about 1820 to 1860 enjoyed a relatively prosperous period in which the state began to develop along the lines of today's Maine. It was a period of increasing comfort, nascent educational and cultural institutions, agricultural, industrial and transportation progress. If we look at Bethel during this period, we see these developments exemplified by the establishment of the churches, the coming of the railroad in 1851 and such steady population growth that by 1860 the town had a population of 2500--just a little more than it has today.

The Civil War and the years following introduced fundamental change, a watershed in Maine and the nation's history. The opening of the West transformed agriculture leading to economic decline of the small farm; migration from East to the West was to lead to a decline in Maine's population. Heavy industry and rapid development of communications and transportation dominated national economic life and business became increasingly "big business." Maine reflected these trends but because of limitations of geography and climate only to a relatively small extent. Agriculture became progressively specialized with the growing of large cash crops, primarily a western phenomenon. Our railroads were never the size or importance of the national railroads. Industry in Maine developed on a lesser scale. From the end of the Civil War, Maine's economic and political importance declined.

The last six or seven chapters of the book cover Maine in the Twentieth Century. All of us have had experience with at least some of the topics discussed, and it is interesting to compare our memories with the scholars' analyses, whether it be the depression of the 1930s, or changes in politics caused by the Muskie victories in the 1950s as slowly Maine became a two party State after a century of Republican dominance. It is encouraging to note that at most periods Maine has had political leaders of ability. No one will challenge the conclusion that today Maine shares in most national trends and problems, and faces others peculiar to our nature and history. Or to quote the concluding comment, "a wonderful place to live but a poor place to make a living."

This volume is a large, quality paperback. There are numerous maps and illustrations, all of good quality and interesting. The cover picture is a reproduction of a delightful painting of Skowhegan.

Margaret Joy Tibbetts.

Margaret Joy Tibbetts, a Bethel native and former U.S. Ambassador to Norway, holds a Ph.D. in history from Bryn Mawr and is a former president and board chairman of the Bethel Historical Society.

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)
by L.E. Davis

In December 1943. Marie and I decided to go to Florida for a winter vacation with our plans rather flexible so that we would stay all winter if everything went all right at home, or we would come back if it was necessary.

This was during World War II and travel was restricted to business trips, gasoline was rationed and could be bought only with ration stamps issued by the defense department. Top speed limit on all highway travel was 35 miles per hour. At this time we had a Packard sedan for an automobile, and we were not sure that we would be allowed to use it for this trip, so we bought a 1939 Plymouth business coupe in Auburn that was registered as a delivery vehicle for a grocery store and consequently was eligible for gasoline, using truck ration stamps. We paid $350 for it and it proved to be a very good purchase. It was in early December that we started on this trip and we stopped in Boston on our way to visit Phyllis who was working there at the time. She got a leave from her job and rode to St. Petersburg, Florida with us and stayed about a week then came back to Boston by train. While Phyllis was with us, we stayed at the El Royal Motel at 23rd Avenue and 4th Street North and got our meals wherever we happened to be at mealtime. We took one trip up to New Port Richey, Florida to look at some land (about 10 acres) that my older brother Irving had bought back in 1917 and 1918 before he died and it had been taken by the County for taxes due. This was the last chance to redeem it and that also was part of the object of the trip, to check on this for Sherman Davis who was able to leave his job in Gardner, Massachusetts to come down.

The land was sold for taxes due, and was not redeemed by any of our family. We took another trip while Phyllis was with us in St. Petersburg, down to Venice, Florida to the Air Force Base to see Arthur (Dutchy) Gibbs, who was stationed there.

After Phyllis went home, I took a job in the Post Office Department at Station A on Ninth Street as temporary laborer at $1.04 per hour. That wasn't much of a title but the pay was good and I liked the job. What I actually did was a helper job to the regular clerks. I stayed on this job until March 15 as this was during the war and help was scarce. I could have worked longer on it but we decided to start for home about the 21st of March. Right after Phylllis left we hired a room at 135--7th Avenue, N.E. at Mrs. Margaret Walker's for $12 per week. My working hours were from 4 P.M. to 12 P.M. and sometimes until 1 or 2 A.M. until we got the incoming mail cleaned up.

We didn't use the car hardly any during that winter as gasoline was in very short supply in Florida and for about a week in the middle of the winter only doctors and food delivery men were allowed to buy any. When I got back to Bethel about April 1st I received a letter from the Government National board asking for an explanation of my trip to Florida stating that someone had reported that I had used my car for a vacation trip in violation of the regulations. In reply I told them exactly what I did while I was gone and my reasons for doing so. Apparently my reply was satisfactory because I never heard any more from it.

(to be continued in the next issue)

EDITOR'S CORNER

It is often interesting to note the changes in place names within Maine towns. For example, Bethel's Robertson Hill is now called Robinson Hill in the latest *DeLorme Maine Atlas.* In W. B. Lapham's *History of Bethel, Maine,* published in 1891, it is clearly Robertson Hill (page 193), named for William Robertson (page 605), but gradually in the 20th century it has become Robinson. Now due to DeLorme's designation, it is destined to be that unless someone can convince the mapmaker to the contrary.

Equally frustrating to those who insist on historical accuracy is Woodland Cemetery, which in the 20th century is often referred to as Woodlawn Cemetery. Daniel Hastings' survey clearly labels it as Woodland and the late Muriel Park Mason once showed me an old map of that burial ground which prominently bore the name "Woodland." She brought to my attention that Woodland was its official name and ever since that time I have tried to end the confusion. It is not an easy task to attempt to keep the historic tradition alive, but an important one if we are to be true to our past.

SRH

BOYHOOD DAYS ON BIRD HILL AS REMEMBERED BY MANSFIELD PACKARD

Editor's Note: Society member Mansfield Packard has submitted some of his memories of Bird Hill for publication. Minor editorial changes have been made for the sake of clarity.

When I was nine years old in February of 1913, my family moved from the city of Lynn, Massachusetts to live on my grandmother's farm on Bird Hill in Bethel. It was a hillside farm, two miles from the village of Locke Mills in the town of Greenwood.

Bird Hill was not named for any feathered bird but for the first settlers on the hill named Bird. There were six or seven families living on the hill when we arrived. I can remember Joe George, Howard Maxim, George Blouin, Charles Jordan, Frank Vetquosky, Print Thomas, Raleigh Corson besides my grandmother Martha Davis. Her husband had died a year or so before. There is a small cemetery on the hill and at that time also a little one room red school house, which was no longer in use. The farm was on a slope facing the south and from the doorway we had a beautiful view of North and South ponds about a mile away in the valley and a view of the hills and mountains in the distance.

At first it was quite a change for me and my brother Harry, three years younger than I, but we had neighbors half a mile away with children our age and we soon became acquainted. Our house was the last one on the road and to get to town in the winter Mr. Vetquosky broke out the road after each snowstorm. This was done by chaining a log cross-wise under the front runners of a logging sled and with a team of horses dragging it through the snow. All it did was loosen the snow and pack it down so it was easier walking and a horse and sleigh could get through. In the half mile from "Vets" to our house was a long open pasture from the top of the hill to the woods

below the road. For some reason the wind would blow the snow down the long hill and dump it all in the road. It would be too deep to try to keep the road open after the first storm or two so "Vet" would make a detour through the "Bird Field" and so around the drifts. In March when the snow was real crusty, Harry and I would walk on the crust up over the drifts instead of following the detour through the fields.

One late afternoon, we were walking home over the drifts. It was beginning to be twilight and we saw ahead of us on the snow what looked to be two small animals moving around. We stopped and considered, should he continue and take a chance with the animals or go back and go around the detour? We bravely decided to go ahead and found the object we saw moving were the ears of "Vet's" horse. "Vet" had decided we probably wouldn't have any more snowstorms so he began to open up the regular road by shoveling. He had gone around the detour with his horse and sled and started at the end of the drifts. The snow was so deep that just the horse's ears were showing above the surface of the drifts. The horse was just standing there in the cut "Vet' had shoveled and was enjoying watching his owner do all the work.

There were very few autos in those days and at the first snowfall the few in existence were stored in the barn or shed for the winter. Roads were not maintained for autos in the winter. Every boy and girl owned some kind of sled and quite often in the winter boys on Bird Hill would slide down the road to school leaving the girls to ride on the school team sled. Of course we were all glad to ride back up the hills after school. When it was good sliding the last mile to the village was one long slide without stopping. The older boys all made double runners and it was a boy's ambition to be old enough to have a double runner sled. They were made with two sleds and a wide plank. The plank was bolted to the rear sled with some blocking between the plank and the top of the sled so that the plank seat was about a foot above the snow. The front sled was pivoted so that it would turn and in this way the double runner could be steered around corners. The riders would sit on the plank with arms around the one in front of them and feet up on the edge of the plank. Some of the large double runners would hold six or eight boys and girls. When the snow in the road was well packed and especially if it was a little icy, we could cover that last mile to school in a little over a minute. Roads in those days had twists and turns everywhere and with a double runner and six or seven children on it, we had to become used to leaning at the right time on the turns or the whole thing would tip over. The one on the tail end would usually get the worst of a spill just like the one on the end of a line of skaters playing "snap the whip." Our dad was pretty skeptical about riding on the sleds and would walk the two miles to work in the mill at Lockes, but one morning he was a little late starting and we persuaded him to ride with us on the double runner. I was in front steering, Harry in the middle and Dad on the rear. The road was fast sliding that morning and the last turn before reaching the village was a sharp one. We were really traveling when we hit the turn and Harry and I were hollering, "Lean, Dad, lean." Dad didn't lean enough and he just slid off the sled and went sailing along the crust on his bottom off into the woods. Needless to say, we could never get Dad on the double runner again no matter how late he might be.

Another winter sport was skiing. None of the youngsters in our neighborhood had any "store bought" skis. We made our own by getting barrel staves the same width and nailing a strap of leather on each one to form a loop to put our feet in. Due to the short length of the skis they would sink into the snow the first time down the hill. We would go several times in the same track and by then it would be packed down enough to get up some speed by going down in the same track. The best skiing would be the next morning after a cold night. The track made the previous day would have frozen hard just like ice and wouldn't those skis zip along.

Join the Bethel Historical Society, Western Maine's historical research center.

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A 1947 photograph of Middle Dam, on Lower Richardson Lake. Courtesy of the Union Water Power Company.

SOCIETY PUBLISHES RICHARDSON LAKES BOOK

The long-awaited book, *The Richardson Lakes: Jewels in the Rangeley Chain* by Herbert P. Shirrefs, has now arrived at Society headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House. A project of nearly three years, the book, edited by Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett, is the latest in the Society's publication ventures. Over 500 pages in length with more than 300 maps, engravings, and illustrations, The Richardson Lakes documents the long-neglected history of a section of Maine that has attracted visitors for generations to some of northern New England's most spectacular scenery. Boating, camping, hunting, and fishing are discussed along with railroads, stage lines, dams, logging and steamboats.

Beginning in the 1860s, well-to-do sports left eastern cities to "rusticate" in this special place. Their story and those of Indians, guides, and the "movers and shakers" of the region are included here in addition to references to the writings of "all but forgotten" publicists, who made these Lakes known to thousands. This book fills a significant gap in the literature concerning Maine's nineteenth and early twentieth century sporting and tourist industries.

A special feature is a reproduction of the remarkably detailed 1876 Farrar's Guide map of the Rangeley Lakes region, which will be enclosed in a pocket in the back of each book.

It is available in hardcover and quality paperback. For ordering instructions, see page 4.

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